"Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be."

## Message from Mrs How:

I am sure you have all seen the recent communication via Parentmail asking for contributions towards our various whole school and class based activities. Rather than ask for these in dribs and drabs across the year we ask for an one-off contribution so that we know the budget we have and can plan events accordingly to make sure that all classes have equal access to the funds.
The last time we asked for a contribution was 2021. The money lasted longer than expected, as the opportunities we could offer were still restricted after the pandemic but we have now managed to use it all. Some of the events and opportunities provided include visits from Widdershins Theatre and the author James Meyhew, resources for class activities such as cooking or technology, additional trips as part of the Y6 residential and participation in activities run by the Diocese or Local Authority.
Based on a previous years spending, we are asking for a donation in the range of $£ 7.50$ to $£ 25.00$. You are able to set your payment to any amount up to $£ 25.00$ limit, and should anyone wish to donate more than this it can be done by making multiple purchases. All payments should be made through ParentMail.

## We ask please that any payments are made by Monday 20th November 2023 so that we can plan for the remainder of the year.

We are very aware of the financial situation that many families find themselves in and we aim to avoid making too many requests for donations. Please note, however that this payment will not cover any charity events or trips.
As always, we are extremely grateful for all the support that you do give us, both financially and with your time. It is truly appreciated and we know that without your ongoing help we would find it even harder to provide all the interesting learning experiences that currently take place at Steeple.

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Steeple Morden C of E Primary School
7 Hay Street
Steeple Morden
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 0PD
Phone: 01763852474
E-mail: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

## " Out of difficulties grow miracles."

School Meal Charges
Autumn 2023
Daily: $\quad £ 2.40$
Weekly: $£ 12.00$
1st half term $£ 81.60$
2nd half term $£ 91.20$
Whole term $£ 172.80$

Please make payment for school lunches via Parentmail in advance of meals taken.

We are now a 'cashless' school and will no longer accept either cash or


## November

4th Bonfire night
7th Prospective Reception parents event 2pm-3pm
16th Year 2 Trip to Woburn Safari Park
24th-26th Christmas tree festival in church
December
6th KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm
7th Year 5 Grandparents event 9.30am-10.30am
7th KS1 Nativity performance to parents 2pm
14th KS2 Church service 9.30am (school and parents)
14th Christmas lunch
14th KS2 Church service 6pm (parents)
15th Rocksteady concert 1.30pm (parents)

## Absence Reporting

If your child is absent please advise us on 01763
852474 (Option 1) and leave a message on the absence line or email office@steeplemorden.cam bs.sch.uk

Please don't message via Parentmail as we don't use this aspect of the system and so this won't be seen.

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn term begins
Autumn half term Autumn term ends
INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Spring term begins
Spring half term
Spring term ends

Summer term begins
Early May Bank Holiday
Summer half term
Summer term ends
INSET Days
(pupils not in school)

Tuesday 5th September 2023
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023
Wednesday 20th December 2023
Friday 1st September
Monday 4th September

Thursday 4th January 2024
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024

Tuesday 16th April 2024
Monday 6th May 2024
Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024
Friday 19th July 2024
Monday 15th April
Monday 3rd June
Monday 22nd July

## Notice Board

## School uniform

Please, please ensure that your child's belongings (uniform, bags, water bottle etc) are all labelled with your child's name. We have a number of jumpers and other items which have been misplaced by their owners which we can't return as they don't have the child's name inside, or have the name of a 'previous owner'.

## Playground

Parents are asked to ensure that their children, whether those who attend school or younger siblings, do not play in the gazebo or on the play structure at school pick up time. This is to ensure everyone's safety and prevent any damage to these valuable structures. Please ensure that once on the school premises, bikes and scooters are walked, not ridden.

## Home Time Arrangements

Please ensure that you advise the office by email on office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk by 12 noon if your child's home time arrangement will be different from usual.

Please also remember that if your child is being collected with another child to let us know; we've had a number of occasions when the office has had to make

## Steeple Morden C of E Primary School

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, SG8 OPD Tel: 01763852474
Email: office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk Website: www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey How

## Cleaner Vacancy 10 hours per week, $£ 10.60$ per hour term time Starting ASAP 2023

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated part time Cleaner.
There is some flexibility when the hours could be worked and can be either directly before and after school, 5 days per week.
Option 1-7.30-8.30 am and 1 hour between 3.30pm and 5.30pm
Option2-3.30-5.30pm

This post may be suitable for someone wanting to work around their studies.

The post holder will join our cleaning team and be responsible for ensuring the building is cleaned to a safe, high standard at all times.

If you are interested in this position, please see school website for further information and an application form. Applications should be sent to Mrs Alisa Lopez-Adcock e-mail office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and applicants will be subject to a full enhanced DBS check. Please note, references will be requested prior to interview. As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from all members of the community.

Closing date: Wednesday $29^{\text {th }}$ November 10.00am 2023


We had a great first meeting as we began putting this year's firework event together. We have several volunteers leading different parts of the event and we will be looking for as much help as possible. If you have already been in touch to volunteer then we will be in contact soon. We are still looking for more volunteers and there are many ways you can help.

Set Up: This will begin from 12.00 noon on Saturday $4^{\text {th }}$ November. Tasks include putting up the safety fencing, tree lights, electricity, water and moving equipment from the school to the recreation ground.

During the event: Various people are leading different stalls. If you are interested in being a fire marshal please contact Mrs How.

Clear Up: From 10:30am on Sunday, this will include a litter pick and moving equipment back to the school.

If you can help with any of these then either please turn up or you can contact us at pta@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk you can also catch one of us at a drop off or pick up.

October Lottery Club winners are:
1st: 25 Emma Phillips $£ 15$

2nd: 28 Francis Noone $£ 10$
CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!
Winners will be contacted by email. Please reply at your earliest convenience so we can transfer your winnings promptly.

## BBC 500 Words Competition

"Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Open from 08:00 Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 Friday 10 November.

If your child would like to create their story and enter from home this year, more information on what's involved and how to enter is available here:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

# Steeple Morden Primary School 

"Steeple Morden is a caring school. The values of 'be brave, be kind and be the best you can be' shine through. Adults care deeply about pupils." Ofsted 2022

## Prospective Parents Event



## Tuesday, 7th November $2 \mathrm{pm}-3 \mathrm{pm}$

For parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2024


Join us to find out what we have to offer to your child.

Please email us if you would like to join our event for prospective parents so that we can provide you with all the necessary information.

Steeple Morden Primary School
7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 OPD Tel: 01763852474


## News from Starling Class (Reception)

The children sounded like they had a wonderful relaxing time during Half Term and they all came back to school bright eyed and bushy tailed. We have been very impressed with how well they have come in each day!

We had a super busy first week back. In Phonics the children revisited the graphemes from Phase 2 in addition to learning 6 new graphemes $\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{l}$ and the digraphs $\mathbf{f f}$ and $\mathbf{l l}$. This week the children learnt two new Harder To Read and Spell words as, his.

| Grapheme/ Phoneme | Picture | Mnemonic |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| h | heron | from his head to his feet, up and over his back |
| b | bike | down the person and around the wheel |
| f | fox | over the ear, down to the tail and across the jaw |
| ff | two foxes | two foxes facing forward |
| l | ladder | down the long ladder |
| II | two ladders | ladders in a line |

This week in Maths the children were thinking about 3D shapes and their properties. The children explored which features mean a 3D shape will roll, slide or stack (having a curved face or edge, having straight sides) and they learnt the mathematical names for the common 3D shapes sphere, cube, cone, cuboid and cylinder.

We continued our 'word collecting' work this week with the following words below to build on our ambitious vocabulary.

| Word | Meaning |
| :--- | :--- |
| Conceal | To hide something from being seen or known about |
| Consume | To eat or drink, especially a lot of something |
| Motive | The reason for doing something |
| Plundered | When something precious has been stolen from a place |
| Abet | To help someone to do something wrong |



We had our first session of 'Helicopter stories' this week. This is where the children begin to display their storytelling skills and dramatic flair (ready for Nativity time!) This week the children were so brave, each of them getting up onto the 'stage' to perform different characters acting out different movements or becoming different objects such as trees and flowers. They were fantastic! The children were then invited to share a 'private story' which was then scribed by Mrs Meridew and then shared with the class and acted out often with the storytellers also becoming directors and helping the actors with stage directions where necessary.

In Art this week the children learnt about Frida Kahlo and had a go at creating art work inspired by her self-portraits using pencils and oil pastels. Some children even attempted to draw laying down like Frida Kahlo using mirrors to help them see their faces. Most children found this quite tricky and it helped us to understand just how talented an artist she was. We used Frida Kahlo as a stimulus to travel to Mexico in Geography this week and we learnt a few greetings in Nahuatl. In PE this week we began our Dance topic, we performed the song 'I'm a little teapot' using the classic movements and then we adapted our dance to show the emotions sad and happy.

We hope to see you at the fireworks on Saturday night! Have a whizz popping weekend!

## Mrs Meridew, Mrs Brown and the Reception Team

## Assemblies \& Collective Wor ship

Our parable this week was that of The Wise and Foolish Builders (found in Matthew 7 v 24-27 and Luke $6 \mathrm{v} 47-49$, but the assembly reading was taken from the Lion Illustrated Bible for Children). Children were asked to compare the idea of a house needing a firm foundation to how we need to have a firm foundation in our lives so that we are able to always be the best we can be. For Christians this firm foundation is the teachings of God and Jesus. For those with other beliefs this foundation can be found in the teachings of deities and prophets. For everyone, these foundations can be created from links with family and friends.


## News from Robin Class (Year 1)

Welcome to the second half term of Year 1!
Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you who are helping your child to practise their reading skills in the comfort and security of their own home. We appreciate your time and your children are really showing the progress they can make with their reading - both with recognising harder to read and spell words and decoding unfamiliar words. Please keep up the great work and encouragement.

If you are struggling with this at home or are struggling to see the value of it, please, please, please try hearing your child read for 5-10 minutes a day for this half term and see the difference you will make. Not only to your child's confidence in reading whole words and sounding out unfamiliar words, but also in their ability to find out more about the world around them.

Consider this: if we were to listen to each child practise reading in school for 10 minutes each and every day, we would have about 1.5 hours of the school day left to teach everything else. If we also need to work with individual children to rehearse sounds for 10 minutes a day, we would not have ANY time to teach anything else. Believe us - it IS worth 10 minutes at home every day and it will help your child make the progress you would hope for. Please help to enable your child to learn to read!

We have started working on 'Addition and Subtraction' in Maths this week. The children have shown us what they have remembered about part-whole models from Reception class and we have built on this by talking about addition sentences and 'fact families'.

In English we have started our next 'Chapter' which is looking at the story of Goldilocks. We are working towards writing a simple re-telling of the story, using adventurous vocabulary and punctuation, if we possibly can! It was great to hear so many children recalling the story, being able to order it correctly and already being able to use different character voices to add interest when telling the story verbally.


This half term we are focussing on Design and Technology on Thursday afternoons. The children will be investigating paper construction, thinking about how they join paper and card in a variety of ways to create different elements for a 3D island. Over the coming weeks they will explore making flanges, flaps and interlocking or zigzag joins. Hopefully their final product will reflect their learning and they will be able to demonstrate perseverance and adaptability.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Bowmer, Mrs Andrews and the Year One Team

## News from Owl Class (Year 2)

A busy week back after the half term. The children have settled back well and started a new block of learning in English around Traditional tales, continued developing addition and subtraction skills in Maths and enjoyed making classifications in science.
In Maths this week the children learnt new methods to add using their known bond facts. Learning how to add and subtract both to and across a tens.


In English this week the children have started to read and find features of traditional tales. The learning extended to using dictionaries to define the features, in order to start writing some tales next week. We have read a number of tales this week including The 3 Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, The 3 billy goats-gruff and The Gingerbread man. Please enjoy other fairy tales at home this week and see if your child can help find some of the features.

* A possessive apostrophe
* Time connectives (Once upon a time, one day, early that evening...)
* Repetitive phrasing ("Not by the hair on my chinny- chin - chin",
"You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread man)


For science we explored outside, and through observation, found the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive. After collecting specimens we returned to class to classify them using MRS GREN to support our understanding. The children developed the learning further by finding specimens in the classroom too. Leaves and humans are alive. Bark, fallen leaves and paper are no longer alive. Stones and a candle have never been alive


Characteristics of llving things
Movement
Respiration Sensitivity

Growth Reproduction Excretion Nutrition


The highlight of the week was our cooking and nutrition session. The children learnt to follow hand hygiene procedures to use hand tools and kitchen equipment safely. Each child cut, peeled or grated fruit to make fruit faces. Please see photos below:


## Reminders:

Water bottle in school daily.
Reading log and book in school daily.
Homework folders in Monday for spellings and Thursday for marking.
As the weather is turning cooler please make sure your child has a waterproof coat

If you have any questions about anything please contact us through the office by email:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk

Miss Blesic, Mrs Andrews and the Year 2 Team

## News from Peacock Class (Year 3)

A jolly week in Year Three, the children are all refreshed from their half term week and have been eager to learn.

In English, this week we have started to look at the descriptive work in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. So far, we have reminded ourselves what nouns and adjectives are and how they can be used in a descriptive sentence. We then worked together to gather adjectives and descriptive phrases to describe the factory. We have saved all of our ideas and suggestions for use in future lessons. The descriptive work based on this story will continue for the next couple of weeks.

In Maths, we have continued to think about addition by adding a single digit number where the addition bridges a 10 . We than thought about how to add a multiple of 10 to a 3-digit number.

In other areas, we have started our next unit of science all about light. In this, we needed to consider how we use light to see and how shadows are formed. There were many activities enjoyed to cover this work; feely bags to prove we need light to see, shadow hand puppets to show that shadows are made when an object blocks the light, a bingo quiz to learn scientific facts about light, a word search to learn key vocabulary and sorting light sources from reflectors. We made 'fortune tellers' to test each other on our knowledge. We will continue with our work about the science of light next week.

In French, we greeted each other, asking how we each were before we revised our numbers to 20. We then started to learn some of the colours; we will build on this so that we can use the colours as adjectives for some common objects, eg. the red apple.


With Miss Smith, we moved to the New Testament and thought about how Jesus chose his first disciples.

Over half term I reviewed the use of Spelling Frame and Mathletics, just a reminder that these are set as a weekly homework task. They should only take a few minutes each week but help enormously with the children's spelling and mathematical understanding.


## Up coming events

Wednesday 8th November, Mayan dress up day. Please do not feel you need to spend a lot of money on the costumes, it is surprising what you can do with a pillowcase and empty cereal boxes!

## Weekly home activities

Reading, please aim for at least 4 x weekly noting what has been read in reading diary. Books and diary must be in school daily please.

Mathletics and Spelling Frame, logins for both are in reading diaries
Tackling tables practise.

## Reminders

Please name all clothing
Send books and diary into school each day.

From Mrs Seward and the Year Three team


## News from Swift Class (Year 4)

In our English lessons, we are looking at a number of non-chronological reports and exploring the features associated with this such as paragraphing and subheadings and we will be using these skills when writing in other subjects. Pointing these features out in texts children read can be helpful and finding examples of where 'topic sentences' are particularly effective. A topic sentence is a name for the first sentence of a paragraph that introduces the content of the paragraph. If a piece is constructed well, it should be possible just to read the first sentence of each paragraph and understand the gist of the whole piece.

This week in our maths lessons, we have continued with our unit on addition and subtraction and begun a new topic with Mrs How. Over the coming weeks we will be focussing on measurement and how to accurately calculate the perimeter of shapes. Many children confuse the concepts of perimeter and area, so we will concentrate on the differences in these measures.

Textiles will be the common thread in our artwork this half term. We will be looking at how textiles are used in art, specifically weaving. We have been looking at how different fabrics are constructed and will be working towards developing our own artwork using textiles.

In our mandarin lessons we have been increasing our knowledge of number and how the numbers are written. Children are showing good recall of these characters and have been paying particular attention to the tones used for each number.

From Mr Beavan and the Year 4 Team


## News from Heron Class (Year 5)

Welcome back after what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable half term break for you all.

In English this week, we have concluded our work on persuasive writing by drafting and then editing and improving a piece of work aimed at encouraging everyone to take personal responsibility for caring for our planet.


In Science, we have finished our work on animals and will now be moving onto our next topic - Materials. The children have really enjoyed learning about different animal life cycles and comparing them with one another and they have produced some good work.

In Computing, we have taken some data from our Science work on endangered animals and used this to experiment with creating graphs and charts in Excel. As we found different ways to display our data we tried to think about which audience our representation was best suited to and then worked on accurately articulating and convincingly justifying our answers.

In Maths we have been putting our knowledge of multiplication tables to good use in our work on multiples and common multiples. Quick recall of multiplication and division facts makes a huge difference to our progress so please keep practising key facts with your tackling tables homepacks.
We will be looking at factors, common factors, square, cube numbers and prime numbers in the coming weeks so look out for activities on Mathletics to consolidate our learning in school. The class produced some beautiful artwork at the start of the week when we finally printed our William Morris inspired press prints. They are very effective and will be displayed in school before making their way home.

In History we will be moving on to look at the work of key Victorian individuals who sought to improve the living and working conditions for children including Lord Shaftsbury and Dr Barnado. We are going to debate the different views which were held at the time and see if we agree with some of the laws which were passed.


Thank you to those of you who have supported your child to complete their optional homework. We will begin to share examples soon with the class but there is still time to complete and send in any projects you have been working on.
Have a lovely weekend and fingers crossed for a fantastic bonfire and firework display on Saturday.

## Mrs Daniels, Mrs Morris and the Year 5 Team.

## News from Puffin Class (Year 6)

I hope that you all had a restful holiday last week and are gearing up for the lead up to Christmas now!

This week, in Maths, we have been looking at factors, multiples and common multiples. This was an excellent chance for the class to work on some investigative mathematical work, something that they will be doing more of when they go to their secondary schools next year. We will be continuing to look at different types of number next week by studying square numbers and prime numbers.

In English, we have started to plan our 'hot texts' for a balanced argument. We have focussed on the language found in the genre (sentence openers, conjunctions, complex sentences) and have looked at various examples, from subjects ranging from should dogs be banned from parks through to should pupils be allowed mobile phones in school, among many others.

In PE, this term, we have finished our sports from the first term - attached are some photos from our class tennis tournament during the week. From next week we will be playing hockey and rugby on the field. Please, therefore, could your child bring in a PE kit that they do not mind getting dirty if the weather deteriorates over the next few weeks. Thank you.

Homework will be set this Friday and should be completed by Thursday 9th November. Keep on reading and learning those times tables please.

Thank you.


Mr Baker and the Year 6 Team


## Sign up now to in-school woodwind lessons! The benefits of learning an instrument as a child are huge!

Our visiting music teacher from Hertfordshire Music has spaces to teach clarinet or flute during the school day. You would need to hire/own an instrument, but we do have a couple in school that we could lend. If you and your child are interested you need to sign up here:
https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration\#/. If you would like to borrow a school instrument please speak to us first.


There are 3 types of instrumental lesson available:

- Individual lessons $£ 14.70$
- Shared lessons $£ 11.03$

- Small group lessons $£ 7.25$

Children who are currently learning some of the woodwind instruments, saxophone, flute and clarinet, played in assembly this week. As well as these instruments the oboe, fife and recorder are also available.

Learning an instrument at a young age forms a productive hobby that you can return to throughout your lifetime. It also cures boredom, develops discipline, serves as relaxing downtime, forms physical benefits, aids academic learning, improves listening, trains memory, boosts social skills, forms confidence. More information about hiring and FAQ can be found by scanning this QR code here, you can also speak with Mrs Bowmer, our music leader:

# PARISH PANTRY 

Local Food Bank


We will be opening a village foodbank in St Peter \& St Paul Church from Monday 18th July

There will be Plastic boxes left in the porch of the church for people to leave their donations in or take required items.
This is open and available to all that need it, whether you don't want to waste petrol to go and buy a bag of sugar, you need a full meal to feed your self, your children, or you have no transport to get to the shops.

If you are in a position to donate items required are:
Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg, Potatoes \& Fruit Cereals UHT Milk
Sugar
Flour
Pasta
Pasta sauces
Mug shots
Pot noodles
Individual wrapped cakes

Location:
St Peter \& St Paul Church
Steeple Morden SG8 ONJ


For more info:
Sam Carroll
07494588663
sdcarroll849@gmail.com


Open to all children in Reception \& Year 1 (Sept 22)
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AT hello@mordenmagpies.co.uk


* . * Café Church is back!

This friendly café runs every Friday morning 9-11) during term time in Steeple Morden Church

Tea, coffee, home-made cake Toys and lots of space for little ones

Do join us after school drop-off



## Community News

## Events / Adverts / Messages posted on our website Community Page

Smarties Preschool
Litlington Preschool
Bonfitness Pilates
Helen O-Grady Drama Classes
Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts classes
MF Tennis Coaching
Modern Foreign Languages Tuition
Biggleswade Swimming Club
Royston Hockey Club Juniors Section
Theatretrain Royston
Mindfulness Relaxation Sessions
Royston Stagecoach
Summer Netball \& Athletics Camps
NCT Nearly New Sale
Castle Coaching Football and Rugby training sessions
First aid course-for adults, juniors and teens
Bow Books-National Bookshop Day and Bookmark competition
To find out more please go to the Community page on the Website: https:// www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk/community

## "I live to laugh, and I laugh to live."

## Milton Berle

